

Appl. No.: 10/628,862
Amdt. dated Mar 22, 2007
Reply to Office action of Jan. 3, 2007

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph **one** on page **1** with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention ~~concerns~~ is directed to a movable camera for the cargo compartment of a commercial vehicle with a cargo compartment, particularly a tarpaulin covered compartment, mounted either singly or ~~on trailers~~ on a trailer.

Please replace paragraph **two** on page **1** with the following amended paragraph:

During travel in reverse, the problem which universally presents ~~itself~~ itself is during the required twisting around of the driver, and the ~~the~~ limited field of view through obstructing door posts, head rests and the like. This problem especially occurs in the case of commercial vehicles, since the rear construction of the same, including cargo container structure, vehicle crane or other appurtenances, can completely shut off the line of sight to the rear. At the same time, in the case of such vehicles, often a very precise reverse driving is necessary with much attention given to the surrounding situation in the rear. This is especially true in backing up to a loading ramp or making entry into a bus garage with narrow clearance.

Please replace paragraph **four** on page **1** with the following amended paragraph:

For the solution to this problem, it is a known practice, to install one or more cameras externally on the vehicle, in such a manner, that they can survey the ~~said~~ obscured area behind the vehicle. The image taken by the camera, is then transmitted for the view of the driver to a monitor in the vehicle cab or to a partitioned picture on a

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part of the rear view mirror. This has the advantage, that the driver need not remove his attention from the area which lies in front of the vehicle.

Please replace paragraph one on page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

The ~~said~~ camera is, as a rule, securely mounted on the rear, upper edge of the cargo container, so that the obscured, rearward area behind the vehicle and the surroundings thereof can imaged. The disadvantage of this is, that even when the camera is not in use, as in the case during normal forward travel, for instance on an expressway, the ~~said~~ camera is subjected to external conditions, such as wind from speed of travel. This exposure, first, makes it necessary ~~necessary~~ to provide a camera ~~of complex with complex~~ sealing and mounting means, and second, the increased air resistance due to the camera increase the gasoline consumption of the ~~said~~ commercial vehicle.

Please replace paragraph five and six on page 2 and paragraph one on page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

~~The purpose is achieved by the features of Claim 1.~~

Another object of the invention is a [[A]] cargo compartment which possesses in its rear side, an opening, ~~preferentially~~ preferably a movable back-end flap, or a slot, which can be [[so]] opened, ~~that it provides~~ to provide the desired field of vision. Thus,

~~Then,~~ in case of a back tarpaulin being thrown over the roof of a cargo compartment, the line of sight is still open.

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Please replace paragraph three on page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

In a preferred version, ~~such a camera~~ the camera is movable, so that it, for example, can be brought into a position during reverse vehicle movement, from which the ~~[[said]]~~ area of interest is optimally visible. At other times, the ~~[[said]]~~ camera can be covered in the inside of the cargo container, and thus protected from damage or accumulation of direct. Advantageously, the opening is opened during the movement of the camera, in that, to a certain extent, the camera is partially moved to the rear by its movement apparatus in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle. In this way, the camera would be pushed through a corresponding slot in the tarpaulin end of the container, or a corresponding rear flap would be caused to open.

Please replace paragraph four on page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

Advantageously, ~~an-invented~~ the invented camera construction can be placed at least in the last unit of a tractor trailer arrangement with multi-trailers, or also in a single commercial vehicle with an integral cargo container. For instance, for safety considerations, this would allow a view of the area lying behind the commercial vehicle as well as permit exact backing-up onto a loading ramp which is behind the last trailer of the articulated vehicle assembly.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph eight (Fig.8) page 4:

It is noted that the rear cover 2a may comprise a flexible member such as a tarpaulin as shown in Figs 1-3, and 6-8 or a rigid member such as the rigid covering

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shown in Figs 4, 5.

Please replace paragraph nine on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 1 shows schematically the rear part or cargo container of a commercial vehicle or truck 1 with a cargo ~~container~~ container 2 in the form of a tarpaulin tarpaulin frame. This tarpaulin framing encompasses a rear side comprising a rear tarpaulin 2a, which can be let down into a vertical position, as this is shown in Fig. 1. The rear tarpaulin can be thrown back, wholly or partially onto the roof of the cargo container for ~~[[the]]~~ loading or ~~[[the]]~~ unloading of the truck, ~~this is as is~~ shown in Fig. 3.

Please replace paragraph ten on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

On the inside upper portion of the tarpaulin cargo container 2, ~~that is~~, within the cargo space and facing a rear tarpaulin, is mounted a camera 3, which is aligned in the longitudinal direction of the ~~vehicle, and vehicle.~~ Camera 3 is connected to a movement apparatus, which ~~latter, in turn,~~ is fastened to the upper structure of cargo container 2 of vehicle 1. Facing the lens of the camera 3 and in the rear of the vehicle 1, the rear ~~tarpaulin tarpaulin~~ 2a is furnished with a movable flap 2b.

Please replace paragraph eleven on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 1 shows the truck in normal operation, for instance, during normal forward travel. In this case, the rear tarpaulin 2a is shown ~~as it is~~ extended downward in its vertical, closed position.

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Please replace paragraph **two** on page **5** with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 2 shows the truck 1 with the camera 3 in its active position. Here the camera 3 is, for example, activated by the driver shifting into a reverse gear of the truck, so that, in the case of backing up, the camera is always ~~[[so]]~~ activated. In a similar manner, the camera 3 could also be activated by the driver, for example, by the operation of a switch or the like.

Please replace paragraph **three** on page **5** with the following amended paragraph:

If the camera 3 is ~~[[so]]~~ activated, then it creates an image and transmits this to a (not shown) monitor in the driver's cab. Advantageously, it records an image in which a part of the vehicle is shown, or a part of a trailer, perhaps the rear bumper or the like, in order to provide the driver with a reference point in the exhibited image. Upon the activation of the camera 3, then the movement apparatus 4, carrying the camera 3, travels to the rear, in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle, into an activated position, as this is shown in Fig. 2. Simultaneously, with the movement of the camera 3, also the said rear flap 2b pivots outward about an axis A transverse to the longitudinal direction of the vehicle 1, thus swinging upward, so that the camera 3 now has a clear field of vision on the rear ~~[[,]]~~ blind area of the truck.

Please replace paragraph **five** on page **5** with the following amended paragraph:

~~The tipping~~ Tipping of the rear flap 2b, as is shown in Figs. 1 and 2, can be effected by a mechanism which is connected with the camera 3 and/or the movement

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apparatus 4.

Please replace paragraph **one** on page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

~~The tipping~~ Tipping of the rear flap 2b, in other designs, can be downward in direction, to the side, or about a different axis. Likewise, the direction of ~~[[the]]~~ tipping of the rear flap can also be so activated, that the camera 3, upon its movement into the active position, presses with its housing against the rear flap 2b. This, advantageously, avoids a complex mechanism for the pivoting of the said rear flap 2b.

Please replace paragraph **two** on page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

In another (not shown) configuration, instead of the rear flap 2b, a slot in the rear tarpaulin cover 2a of the cargo compartment is substituted. Then the opening of the slot is brought about, ~~in that the~~ by the camera 3, which upon moving into the active position separates the slot with the forepart of the camera housing. This advantageously avoids in like manner a complex mechanism for the pivoting of the rear flap 2b.

Please replace paragraph **six** on page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

Advantageously, the opening, that is, the rear flap or the slot, can be closed magnetically, so that it first, is easily opened by the movement apparatus 4, and second, with an inactive ~~movement~~ movement of apparatus 4 it can ~~can~~ be self-closing, so that the infiltration of dirt, rain water, and the like is effectually prevented.

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Please replace paragraph **one** on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 4 shows a truck 1 in normal operation, for instance, in normal forward motion, with a second embodiment of the present invention. Contrary to the first embodiment presented above, ~~we have~~ here a truck with a cargo compartment having a rigid rear side 2a which is rigid and a hinged rigid rear plate flap 2b which is pivotal about an axis A is shown. It is noted that flap 2b may comprise a rigid plate. The movement apparatus 4 includes, in this case, a rotating motor, which ~~[[can]]~~ is operative to rotate the camera 3 about an axis which is parallel to said axis A. Otherwise, analogous elements are denoted by the same reference numbers as in the case of the first embodiment.

Please replace paragraph **two** on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

In Fig. 4, the camera 3 is facing the closed back side, ~~is inactive and is inactive~~, is positioned by the movement apparatus 4 to be entirely in the interior of the enclosed cargo compartment 2, and especially aligned in its idle position in the direction of the vehicle longitudinal direction.

Please replace paragraph **three** on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Advantageously in this case, because of the mode of construction of the movement apparatus as a rotary motor, the opening height of the cargo container is scarcely diminished, since the camera 3 can be run into the inner roof of the said cargo container.

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Please replace paragraph **five** on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

~~If the~~ When the camera 3 is ~~then~~ [[so]] activated, ~~then~~ it captures an image and transmits this to a (not shown) monitor in the cab of the driver. When the camera is in the active state, then the movement apparatus 4 rotates the camera 3 about an axis parallel to the axis A of the rear flap 2b into its active position as this is shown in Fig. 6. At the same time, by the motion of the camera 3, the rear flap 2b is also opened upward giving the camera a clear field of vision onto the pertinent rear area behind the truck.

Please replace paragraph **six** on page 7 with the following amended paragraph:

In an (not shown) alternate mode of construction, instead of the area flap 2b, an elastic area with a slot is provided in the rear side 2a of the of the cargo container. In this case, the opening of the slot is so carried out, that the camera 3, upon being placed in the active position pushes the slot apart with the forward part of its housing. Advantageously, this avoids likewise a complicated mechanism for the pivoting of a rigid flap plate 2b.

Please replace paragraph **two** on page 8 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 6 shows a truck 1 in normal operation, that is, in normal forward travel, with a third embodiment of the present invention. As in the case of the above presented embodiment, the matter here concerns a truck with a tarpaulin structured cargo container having a rear tarpaulin cover 2a. The movement apparatus 4 includes, as in

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the second embodiment, a rotating motor, which can ~~turn~~ rotate the camera 3 about an axis parallel to the said axis A. Otherwise, analogous elements are designated by the same reference numbers as in the case of the first or second embodiment.

Please replace the **Abstract** with the following amended **Abstract**:

A camera assembly for a commercial vehicle [[1]] with a cargo compartment, which comprises a camera [[3]], and a movement apparatus [[4]], wherein the movement apparatus [[4]] displaces the [[said]] camera [[3]], at least partially outward, ~~through an opening 2b in the tarpaulin cargo container~~ from the interior of the cargo container ~~same~~, in such a manner, ~~and/or the opening 2b in the tarpaulin container structure can be so opened~~, that the camera, by an energized movement apparatus can survey a definite field of view in the rearward area of the ~~said~~ commercial vehicle. The movement of the camera may be through an opening in the rear closure of the cargo container. In this way, it becomes possible, even with a downward, closed, rear end ~~tarpaulin~~ to observe the area lying behind the commercial vehicle by means of the camera during the backing up of the commercial vehicle.